including the one involving the ex-diplomate from Romania; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to reduce its strength to make it more effective ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. In view of the fact that most of the activities and operations of the Intelligence Bureau are secret in nature, it is not in public interest to discuss or reveal the details of the intelligence operations leading to the release of the ex-Romanian Diplomat.

(c) Government does not propose to reduce the strength of the Intelligence Bureau.

Non-payment of bills for vehicles hired by Delhi Police

3585. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 410 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th September, 1991 and state :

(a) whether discrepencies detected in some of the bills were brought to the notice of the concerned vehicle owners ; if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of the vehicles hired by the Delhi Police under Vasant Vihar Police Station during bandh purpose in October, 1990 ;

(c) the details of the vehicles in respect of which payment has been made and those in respect of which the same is still outstanding alongwith the reasons therefor ;

(d) the steps being taken in the matter ; and

(e) the details of the entries made in the DDR in respect of the above and the action taken so far to investigate the whole matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Delhi Police has reported that no vehicle was hired by Police Station Vasant Vihar for bandh purposes in October, 1990. However, Vehicles were hired in connection with agitation against Mandal Commission. One bill was received for hiring of such vehicles and was pending for completion usual formalities which have since been completed.

Harassment of Naval Officer posted at BARC

3586. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the harassment of Naval Officer posted with BARC as reported by his wife in SAVVY monthly of January 1992 and if so, whether in view of this torture as evidence by the High Court Judgement in the matter whether any action has been taken against the prime culprit, if so, the details thereof ;

(b) whether Government are also aware of scores of similar cases where highly efficient motivated and dedicated scientists have been removed on suspicion, jealousy and refusal to tow the line of his superiors and if so, what remedial measures are available for protecting such staff ;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a high powered three man Committee, with one representative

from the working scientists for going into all pending cases as also future cases ; and

(d) whether Government also propose to give opportunity of personal appearance to the victim and those responsible for taking a decision before such a Committee in order to stop brain drain ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) The retired Naval officer, referred to in the Question, seems to be Shri B.K. Subbarao, retired Naval officer. On the basis of the investigations made by the Police authorities of the Government of Maharashtra, Shri Subbarao was prosecuted under Official Secrets Act, 1923 and Atomic Energy Act, 1962 for suspected espionage activities etc. The matter relating to his alleged harassment has been taken up with the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) to (d) If any specific case is brought to the notice of the Government, the matter can be looked into.

Pakistani-Akali Nexus

3587. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in a section of Press containing a statement reportedly been made by the Home Minister himself to the effect that there is 'Pakistani Akali' Nexus ; and

(b) what follow up Government have taken to ban political parties which are considered anti-national ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) and (b) Facts are being ascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Dowry Victims

3588. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption "System apathetic to dowry vicitms" which appeared in the 'Indian Express', New Delhi dated the 7th February, 1992 ;

(b) whether Government are aware of the cumbersome legal system, which takes years together, to establish the crime, which has become a common occurrence ;

(c) whether there is any rise in the incidence of dowry deaths and the slow legal system and police apathy and connivance helps the criminals to escape the punishment ; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to give more teeth to the existing dowry-related Laws ; establish Special Courts to try dowry crimes on day-to-day hearing basis and set down a time-limit in which the trial Court should give its verdict apart from arousing public conscience against the evils of dowry system and most horrifying killing of innocent women ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government are aware of the delay and difficulties involved in bringing the offenders to justice.